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ST. CHARLES PARISH


DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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TO: V.J. St. Pierre, Jr.

FROM: Duane P. Foret, Parks and Recreation Director 

SUBJECT: **2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

The St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department completed another dynamic and productive year in 2012 while creating community through people, parks and programs. The job of providing high quality, safe after-school, recreation, leisure programs and park facilities is a challenge we work hard to fulfill with a goal to exceed expectations. Through continued support and participation, our St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department is able to make a difference in citizen quality of life and work toward building a sustainable community. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees 317 acres of land and operates 50 parks that include athletic fields, restrooms, picnic areas, boat launches, walking multi-use paths and concession stands at most of the sites. We also, must cut, spray for pests, chalk and clean these 317 acres of land in the parish. If you factor in inclement weather it becomes a highly intensive task just to cut grass and maintains parks. We strive to provide a wide array of sports, recreation activities, passive settings, and special events to provide enjoyment for citizens of all ages.

Each year, thousands of happy customers use our recreation programs to get active, learn new skills and have fun in improving their health and well-being. By providing the quantity and quality of service those citizens have come accustomed to require the energy of a very committed staff, the dedication of a very active OTS Board, and the commitment and dedicated service of parish officials. The commitment to excellence is taken seriously among those of us who are dedicated to providing St. Charles Parish residents with the very best in parks and recreation services.

Recreation Services provides a broad spectrum of leisure services to meet the needs of all segments of the community. This includes group and individual programming to promote a high quality of life through positive, social, cultural, psychological, emotional, and physiological development. We work alongside with the School Board and assist them in grass cutting and

maintenance work in turn so that we are enabled to use their gyms, fields and facilities. Gym space continues to be a major obstacle for our program. It is our hope; the newly proposed community center will add tremendous value to our department and help provide more gym space for our program.

We are very grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors who give so freely of their time and who continue to be devoted to our youth and adult programs. Their support and continued interest allows us all to develop and maintain excellent facilities, parks, programs and services. We appreciate those who are devoted and contribute to the health and wellness of St. Charles Parish. Parks and Recreation sincerely understand the benefits that this department brings to each citizen and will strive to continue to support this department and its goals for the future.

This past year, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Babe Ruth Girls Southwest Regional (ages 8-18). This department pulled together to plan for 7 months prior to event. This was a major plus for our program along with the many visitors that toured our parish. As Director, I am proud of the achievements of the Parks and Recreation Department this past year and am pleased to present the Parks & Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report with its many accomplishments and highlights.

2012 ST. CHARLES PARISH PARKS AND RECREATION

Based on Year of 2011 & 2012 Participants

SPORT	2011 # OF TEAMS	2012 # OF TEAMS	2011 # OF PARTICIPANTS	2012 # OF PARTICIPANTS
BASEBALL BOYS YOUTH (2012 INCLUDING T-BALL-22 & ALL-STARS-8)	103	94	1,304	1,158
SOFTBALL GIRLS YOUTH (2012 INCLUDING ALL-STARS-5) 2012 Girls T-Ball-9	47	46	582	638
FALL Baseball	19	13	206	162
SOFTBALL ADULT INDUSTRIAL	8	8	146	160
SOFTBALL ADULT INDEPENDENT	14	12	224	240
SOFTBALL ADULT WOMEN	8	5	141	100
BASKETBALL BOYS YOUTH (INCLUDING ALL-STARS-3)	95	89	959	1030
BASKETBALL GIRLS YOUTH (INCLUDING ALL-STARS-3)	22	17	238	216
BASKETBALL ADULT INDUSTRIAL & INDEPENDENT	16	13	240	260
FOOTBALL YOUTH	35	29	782	764
CHEERLEADERS	9	12	215	200
SOCCER AGES 4-19			800	900
TRACK	1	1	60	50

SENIOR OLYMPICS (NUMEROUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT)			est. 1,000	est.900
SPECIAL OLYMPICS (NUMEROUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT)			1,140 (included other parishes involved)	1,125 (included other parishes involved)
SUMMER CAMP (INCLUSIVE)	4 camps	4 camps	468 + 81 camp employees	464 + 63 employees
VOLLEY BALL LEAGUE	21	24	218	288
CHALLENGER T-BALL	2		85(includes Buddies)	85(includes Buddies)
SHOOTING STARS BASKETBALL	2		85(includes Buddies)	85(includes Buddies)
TENNIS LESSONS/GAMES (NEW 2011)				121

Recreational Activities Offered

- Youth - Football, Basketball, Baseball, All Stars, Fall Baseball, Soccer, Cheerleading, Softball, T-Ball (Boys & Girls), Summer Camp, Volleyball, Track, Tennis, Temporary Summer Jobs, Picnics, etc.
- Adult - Basketball, Women, Industrial and Independent Softball, Radio Control Racetrack, Coaching, Multi-Use Track at East and West Bank Levee, and Walking Track, Temporary Summer Jobs, Picnics, etc.
- Seniors - Bowling, Softball, Basketball, Arts & Crafts, Game Sporting Activities, Mardi Gras Ball, Fishing Rodeo, Horseshoes, Sketching & Oil Painting Classes, Casino Trips, Field Trips, etc.
- Special Athletes - Softball, T-Ball, Volleyball, Track & Field, Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, Challenger Baseball Program, Shooting Stars Basketball and Swimming.

We have 10 Boat Launches throughout St. Charles Parish for all ages.

Youth Baseball – (Babe Ruth League)

2 Separate Leagues – American & National

American League is a more skilled level of play which ends the season with the ability to participate in All Stars. National League is a recreational level of play which enables the players to learn the game at a lower level of play. There were a total of 94 teams of baseball for 2012 this includes the All Star Teams.

All Star Competition - Boys

7 Boys 2nd Place in State and 6th Place in World Series, 8 Boys 6th in State and Attended World Series, 9 Boys 2nd Place in State, 10 Boys State Participation, 11 Boys State Participation, 12 Boys State Participation, 13 Boys State Champions, 14 Boys State Runner Up.

Babe Ruth Softball League – Babe Ruth League

One league is held for girls through the Recreation Department which includes a tryout and placement on a team. All Stars are drafted by coaches at the end of the season. There were a total of 46 teams of softball for 2012 which includes the All Star Teams.

All Star Competition - Girls

8 Girls Babe Ruth State & Regional Champs, 10 Girls Babe Ruth State Champs and 3rd in Regionals, 12 Girls Babe Ruth State & Regional Champs, 14 Girls Babe Ruth State & Regional Champs, 16 Girls Babe Ruth State & Regional Runner Up.

Challenger Baseball

2 teams – Special Athletes

85 Participants including Buddies that assisted with the program.

The Challenger Division is a program for mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. More than the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of the Challenger Program is found in the proven therapeutic and socialization benefits of participating in sports, the strengthening of participants' self-esteem, the opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play, and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play, which are hallmarks of this program.

Youth Football Program

In 2012, we had a total of 29 teams that participated in this program. This was another great season with 764 participants that included 216 games of football for all ages. Our Bowl Day Championship was a great success along with our Cheerleading Showcase.

Youth Volleyball

This is the 4th year for our Volleyball Program and participants enjoy the new sport for girls and continues to grow in participation that helps the players develop into great high school players. We now have 288 participants with 24 teams participating in this sport. We scheduled 293 games of volley for the 2012 season.

Fall Baseball

Fall baseball had an increase in participating this year and this season ran smoothly. There were 13 teams with 162 participants. The fall league is for the children who want to continue playing

baseball after the regular season ends. This league changed the game days to be scheduled on Saturdays only to allow homework during the week. We had a small decline in participants in 2012. This is a great learning league that allows the players to prepare themselves for the upcoming baseball season.

Youth Basketball Program

Youth Basketball continues to run smoothly with the exception of gym space. There were 106 teams with 1,246 participants (girls and boys) that include the All Star Team after regular play. In 2012, we continued to run one league and it worked out fine. Gym space continues to be a big issue when creating schedules for practice and games. We are anticipating great improvements in this program when our community center is built.

All Star Competition - Basketball

8 Yr Girls Biddy Basketball 1st Place in Regional
10 Yr Girls Biddy Basketball 3rd Place in Regional
12 Yr Girls Biddy Basketball Regional Champs, National Champs

8 Yr Boys Biddy Basketball Regional & National Champs
9 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball 5th in Regional
10 Yr Boys Biddy Basketball 3rd Place in Regional
11 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball 1st Place in Regional, Attended Nationals
12 Yr Boys Biddy Basketball 3rd Place State

Basketball – Shooting Stars

2 teams – Special Athletes
85 Participants including Buddies that assisted with the program.
This program was developed due to the success in our Challenger Baseball Program. Program is for the mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. A Christmas Celebration was held with Santa at the end of the season in December.

Summer Camp

In 2012, we once again offered before and after care program at Lakewood, Schoeffner, Luling and Cammon. We had 464 campers that attended camp with 63 temporary employees for 2012. Camp Sites – Lakewood, Luling, Schoeffner and Cammon. We continued to offer Camp Shriver Program to challenge athletes with disabilities and inclusion. Camp Flat Fee for entire 6 week session was \$250 that included all field trips, water slide day, freeze pops, pizza day and snacks for before and after care. We also offered After-Care at Lakewood and New Sarpy Camps for an additional fee of \$300. Recreation Department partnered with Community Services to provide healthy lunch meals at Cammon and Luling Summer Camp locations.

Adult Softball

We had 8 Industrial teams, 12 Independent and 5 Women's League teams that participated in Adult Softball Program that included 500 participants in which we scheduled a total of 356 games that were played during the 2012 Adult Softball Season.

Adult Basketball

For 2012, we once again had the same number of participants for Adult Basketball (Industrial and Independent). We had 13 teams in this league with 260 participants. In 2012, we had a shortage of three teams, however gained 20 in participants.

Seniors

Seniors enjoyed visiting Casino Trips that were available on a monthly schedule. Numerous sports offered along with arts & crafts, exercise and events, etc. The competitors represented our parish well in regional and national competition. Senior activities included the Mardi Gras Ball, Bowling League, Bayou-River District Olympic Games, Golf, Fishing Rodeo, Arts and Crafts, Bocce, Fitness Program, Road Trips (dining, casino, shopping, etc.) and several others. Special Olympics participants enjoyed, softball competition, Olympic games, horseshoes, track and field, basketball, t-ball, and working with the Alligator Festival.

Boat Launches

We have 10 boat launches in St. Charles Parish.

2012 Highlights

We held our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt along with a hat and jelly bean competition. We had over 450 participants with beautiful warm weather. The Easter Hat Competition was once again a people pleaser and you can view video on stcharlesgov.net. This event grows tremendously every year. We have great participant expectation for the coming year.

Des Allemands Walking Path – New Playground Equipment Installed

Improvements - Upgraded Boat Launches at Spillway in Norco – Grant Funds \$8,000

New Swimming Program at Luling Summer Camp

Special Olympics – Added Unified Flag Football Program

Evacuation Shelter – Hammond High School – Hurricane Isaac

1st Annual Mardi Gras (daytime) Dance held in St. Rose – Large Attendance

Spillway Pavilion – Concrete removed and new slab poured

Major improvements at East and West Bank Bridge Parks

Community Center in Progress in Luling

Ashton Subdivision – Leveling of Dirt for Recreation Area

Fairfield Park – Replaced Playground Equipment and poured concrete near BBQ Pit area and added a Pavilion

New Plans for Maintenance Building at Monsanto Park in Progress

Rathborne Park - Removal of trees due to Storm Damage

Sacred Heart Improvements due to Storm Damage

Repaired E/B Press Boxes due to Storm Damage

Began drainage upgrade at West Bank Bridge Park along with side walk repairs

Hosted Girls Softball Southwest Regional in July – 7 Months of Planning for Event

Bid Process complete for New W/B Restroom at Bridge Park

Installed Attic Fan in Roof of Concession Stand at W/B Bridge Park

Removal of old playground equipment at Bethune Park and removal of trees

Dow Field Improvements (W/B Bridge Park) – Added dirt and leveled field

On line Summer Camp Registration (Pay-Pal) – Tremendous Improvement for Summer Camp

Fence repair at Lakewood

Recognition of Volunteer Hours – Coaches (Practice, Games & Playoffs) 48,109 hours – Parish Booster Clubs (Meetings, Registration & Concessions) 8,615 hours. Our total “Volunteer Hours” from dedicated individuals consisted of 56,724 hours in 2012.

Partnership with the following Activities

United Way	5k Bridge Run, Teen Violence Seminar, Battle of the Paddle
Rotary Club	Alligator Festival, Christmas Tree Lighting
STC Picnic	Employee Picnic
Cancer Relay	American Cancer Society – Relay for Life

Bayou River Region Senior Games, etc.
Special Olympics
STC School System
RSVP
Wetland Watchers
Council on Aging

Footnotes

The Recreation Department has attempted to improve all facilities and programs each year. In doing so, this department has made great strides in “raising the bar” for all of our citizens and participants.